

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/799,017

Applicant(s)

CHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Michael P. Ferguson

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03 May 2006 interview, 21 April 2006 amendment.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 05/03/06.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Albert S. Penilla, Esq. on May 3, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, in line 4 after "with at least one" inserted --inner--.

In claim 1, in line 5 before "the two motors" inserted --one of--.

In claim 1, in line 6 after "at least one bearing" inserted --disposed on the shaft--.

In claim 1, in line 8 after "with at least one" inserted --outer--.

In claim 1, in line 9 after "fastener fit into the" inserted --outer--.

In claim 1, in line 10 after "received in the" inserted --inner--.

In claim 1, in line 10 after "the two bearing" deleted "sleeve" and replaced with --sleeves--.

In claim 1, in line 11 after "fastener fit into the" inserted --outer--.

In claim 1, in line 12 after "received in the" inserted --inner--.

In claim 7, in line 3 after "surface between the" inserted --outer--.

In claim 9, in line 4 after "at least one groove on" deleted "its inner surface" and replaced with --the inner surface of the bearing sleeve--.

In claim 9, in line 5 after "respectively disposed in" inserted --one of--.

Art Unit: 3679

In claim 9, in line 6 after "at least one bearing" inserted --disposed on the shaft--.

In claim 9, in line 8 after "at least one" inserted --outer--.

In claim 9, in line 10 before "the connector and an outer edge" deleted "the groove formed on" and replaced with one of the outer grooves formed at the first and second end of--.

In claim 9, in line 11 before "the bearing sleeves" inserted --one of--.

In claim 12, in line 3 after "surface between the" inserted --outer--.

In claim 14, in line 7 after "at least one first bearing" inserted --disposed on the shaft--.

In claim 14, in line 10 after "at least one second bearing" inserted --disposed on the shaft--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1 and 9, Lin et al. (US 6,612,817) discloses the claimed motor assembly with the exception of comprising two bearing sleeves each formed with at least one inner groove and respectively disposed in one of the two motors; a connector having a first end and an opposed second end, the first end and the second end each formed with at least one outer groove; a first elastic fastener fit into the outer groove of the connector at the first end and received in the inner groove formed on one of the two bearing sleeves; and a second elastic fastener fit into the outer groove of the connector at the second end and received in the inner groove formed on the other bearing sleeve.

As to claim 14, Lin et al. discloses the claimed motor assembly with the exception of comprising a first bearing sleeve having one end formed with a connection part, the connection part being formed with at least one groove in its outer surface, and the first bearing sleeve is disposed in one of the two motors; a second bearing sleeve formed with at least one groove on its inner surface and disposed in the other of the two motors; and at least one ring-shaped elastic fastener having an inner edge fit into the groove formed on the connection part of the first bearing sleeve and an outer edge received in the groove formed on the second bearing sleeve.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicants' own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the motor assembly as disclosed by Lin et al. to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. The following patents show the state of the art with respect to motor assemblies:

Lin (US 6,343,014) and Takura et al. (US 6,790,017) are cited for pertaining to assemblies comprising two motors each including a shaft.

Art Unit: 3679

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MPF

05/03/06



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